AN IMPRESSIVE HISTORICAL PROJECT
Microfilming Vermont Vital Records

The Church of the Latter Day Saints of Utah is undertaking to microfilm all vital records prior to 1850 existing in the office of the Secretary of State and every town in the state — at no expense to Vermont. Such records include deeds, probate records, births and marriages. These records on microfilm will be lasting, and the assembling of them will mean the saving of years of time in the future by scholars and others interested for personal reasons in such records.

The vital records in the Secretary's office have been completed — 732,302 cards, in all probate offices in 8 counties, in 8 county clerk's offices, and in 109 towns.

The work is being done by Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd S. Hughes of Plainfield, Vermont.

OUR STORY OF THE MONTH
A Point about a Soup A. W.

Years ago, United States Senator Fran L. Greene was introduced very lavishly b a chairman. When the Senator arose t speak, somewhat abashed, he said quietly "I hasten to explain that the Gree Mountains were not named after me."

One of his stories, richly Vermontis in flavor, had to do with a true-to-th old-strain Vermonter who had a bowl "ox tail" soup placed in front of him in Boston restaurant.

Our Vermonter scanned the soup wit a dubious look — just as I in these da gaze doubtfully at anything labele "mock" in the menu — as questionab to some Vermonters as "Democrat

He looked up at the waiter and agai at the soup, and summed it all up:

"Wal, may be, but if it is — it's goin a long way back for soup!"

VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY, MONTPELIER, VERMONT.
Leon S. Gay, President; Dr. Arthur W. Peach, Director and Editor,
Mrs. Louise E. Koier, Associate Editor.
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VHS *News and Notes*

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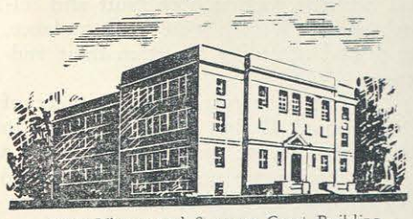

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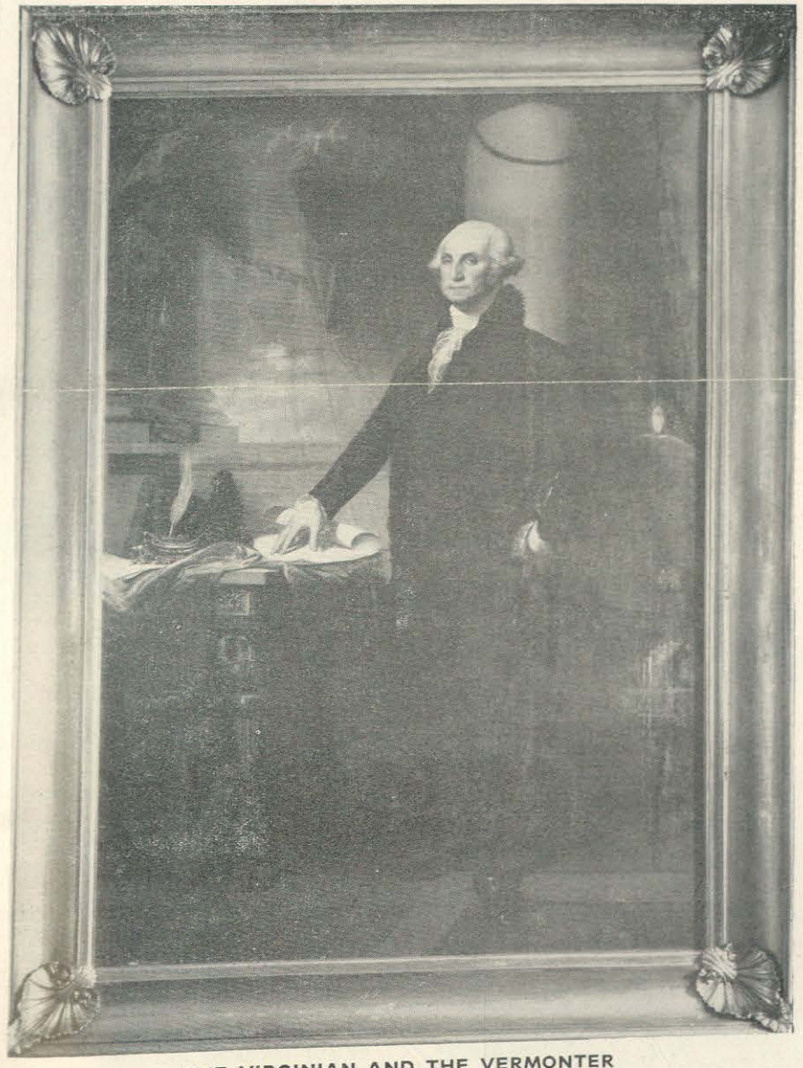
NEWS AND NOTES

VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY · MONTPELIER, VERMONT

Volume 3 February 1952 Number 6



THE VIRGINIAN AND THE VERMONTER

THE VIRGINIAN AND THE VERMONTER

By **Louise E. Koier**

As you enter our State Museum building, your eyes are irresistibly drawn through the open doorway at the end of the lobby to the full-length portrait of Washington in the exhibit room. Purchased in 1837, this fine copy of a well-known Stuart original deserves its niche in Vermont history, since for many years it hung above the Speaker's chair in the Hall of the Vermont House of Representatives.

Yet as you walk through the room, pausing beside Ethan Allen's canteen and gun, the presence of the dignified Virginian among so many reminders of Vermont's rough and ready frontier days seems to strike an oddly incongruous note. And as you contrast the quiet-spoken, cool-headed first President of the United States and our own impetuous, oratorical Ethan Allen, the gulf between them appears so wide that you wonder how they talked together with any degree of understanding. What, you ask yourself, did Washington really think of the warlike leader of the Green Mountain Boys and what did the Vermonter think of the Virginian?

Both men have now become legendary figures; one in our state, the other in our national history. We have no known portrait of Allen, but most of the word pictures that have come down leave the image of a man of ferocious strength and energy, of action rather than thought. On the other hand, the Stuart conception of Washington has played a great part in fixing upon our national consciousness the image of a courtly gentleman of Olympic calm, almost supernatural integrity and paternal benevolence.

However, as we go back into the diaries and letters of the two men, seemingly so far apart, we find more thoughtfulness and gentility in Allen than we had suspected, more storm and stress in Washington than we had remembered. We find, too, certain parallels of experience in their lives. In fact, it is amazing to discover how much they had in common.

For instance there is the diary kept by the 21-year-old Virginian during the two months he spent in the Indian infested wilderness on a difficult and dangerous mission to the commander of the French forces on the Ohio. In his quiet, matter-of-fact way the young Washington tells how he crossed ice-blocked streams, was overturned in freezing waters, made forced all-night and all-day marches and finally returned "from as fatiguing a journey as it is possible to conceive."

What was Ethan Allen doing in 1753? This was the period when the 15-year-old Vermonter was carrying the family grain (he was the eldest of eight children) along the 25-mile blazed trail over mountain and valley from Cornwall to the gristmill at Woodbury. It was a hard, rough life, but when he was not hunting or fishing for the family larder, he showed such an interest in books that at sixteen his father sent him to Salisbury to prepare for Yale. Reading the Vermonter's recollections of these early years, we wonder what sort of man he might have been if his father's untimely death had not forced Ethan to take his place.

The tale of the capture of Ticonderoga is almost synonymous with the name of Ethan Allen; it was a high point in his life. For the Virginian, also, this was a momentous period, for in May of 1775 Washington's diaries show him reviewing the Independent Company, attending the Continental Congress and then, on June 15, being unanimously elected "General and Commander in Chief of all the forces raised or to be raised by the United States."

We would give a great deal to have witnessed the meeting between Washington and Allen at Valley Forge in May, 1777, shortly after the Vermonter's release from British imprisonment. But, at least, through the eyes of Alexander Graydon, a prisoner on parole in New York at the same time as Allen, we catch a glimpse of the man Washington saw. "His figure," writes Graydon, "was that of a robust, large-framed man, worn down by confinement and hard fare—a suit of blue clothes with a gold laced hat presented to him by the gentlemen of Cork enabled him to make a very passable appearance for a rebel colonel . . ."

Washington's letter to Congress gives us the Virginian's own impressions of the Vermonter. "I have been happy in the exchange and a visit from lieutenant-colonel Allen. His fortitude and firmness seem to have placed him out of the reach of misfortune. There is an original something in him that commands admiration; and his long captivity and sufferings have only served to increase, if possible, his enthusiastic zeal. He appears very desirous of rendering his services to the states and of being employed, and at the same time does not discover any ambition for high rank . . ."

In an army overstocked with officers continually struggling for precedence, no wonder the Virginian was refreshed by the Vermonter's lack of desire for rank. He asked Congress to grant Ethan a brevet colonel's commission in the Continental Service and to give him a lieutenant colonel's pay for the period of his captivity.

Looking about him at the half-starved, half-clad men at Valley Forge, Allen must have compared these conditions with the comfort of the British officers' quarters where he was entertained for the last two days of his imprisonment. No man with a grain of sympathy, and Ethan was a warm-hearted man, could have failed to feel compassion for a general who must command such forces.

In the trying years that followed, it is as doubtful whether Vermont would have preserved its political entity without Ethan Allen as it is that the nation would have survived as an independent republic without the leadership of Washington. Some of his negotiations placed him in a questionable light; but after following his strenuous efforts to win statehood by legitimate means, continually balked by a vacillating Congress, we can only feel that his conversations with the British were the desperate measure of a man determined to win security and recognition for Vermont. If he had been treacherous by nature, he had every inducement to betray his country to his British captors when he was first taken prisoner.

On January 26, 1779, the Vermonter sent the Virginian by Jonas Fay a long letter setting forth the position of his people, their insecurity from attack from the north and the willingness of the militia "to face any equal number of the enemy, provided they should have no further reward than the satisfaction of defeating them." Washington's sympathy with the Vermonter's desire for statehood is clear, although he spoke in an unofficial capacity when he told Chittenden (in a letter written in 1781): "You have nothing to do but withdraw your jurisdiction to your old limits and obtain an acknowledgement of independence and sovereignty." It was not his fault, if, like other presidents, he found his promises repudiated by Congress.

Ethan did not live to see his beloved Green Mountain Land become the fourteenth state. But in the year before his death, once again the lives of the Vermonter and the Virginian follow parallel courses. In November of 1787 Ethan wrote from Burlington to his friend Stephen Bradley: "I have lately arrived at my new farm of 14 hundred acres . . . in which there are three hundred and fifty acres of choice river intervale, a quantity of Swaley and rich upland meadow interspersed with the finest of wheat land and pasture land . . ."

He planned to devote the rest of his days to his farm on Burlington Bay. But once again rumors of possible war between Canada and the new Federation and of the possible subjugation of Vermont demanded action, and in July of 1788 Ethan and two of his brothers went to Quebec to arrange an independent understanding between the "reluctant republic" and Canada.

In the early spring of 1789 the Virginian was back at Mount Vernon, carrying on the work of his own beloved acres. He writes in his diary for January 12: "This day sowed Clover and Timothy Seed . . . at both the Ferry and Muddy Hole Plantations . . . beginning at the South end of the field at the Ferry and by the Gate at Muddy Hole." But on April 16, after his election as President, he wrote sadly: "About ten o'clock I bade adieu to Mount Vernon, to private life, and to domestic felicity, and with a mind

oppressed with more anxious and painful sensations than I have words to express, set out for New York . . ."

When at last he was able to return to private life, he sent these words to the Council and General Assembly of the State of Vermont: "Gentlemen, with particular pleasure I receive the unanimous address of the Council and General Assembly of the State of Vermont. Although but lately admitted into the Union, yet the importance of your State, its love of liberty and its energy, were manifested in the earliest periods of the revolution which established our Independence."

"Its love of liberty and its energy"! What words better typify Vermont? And how vividly they portray the epic Vermonter—that impetuous soul no force could tame or intimidate, who never knew the meaning of defeat! Surely, when the Virginian penned those benevolent phrases, they were addressed, not only to the State, but to the man he met at Valley Forge.

PUT A RED CIRCLE AROUND THESE DATES

Red Letter Days for the Summer

On August 15th our Society and the New York State Historical Association will have their joint summer meeting on the New York side of the Lake within easy driving distance of Ticonderoga. It is probable that New York's famous Indian Festival can be seen—also, that there will be a meeting of the New York Folklore Society and our Vermont one. Those who attended the Basin Harbor joint meeting will surely wish to gather in their friends and "take in" the meeting under New York auspices. Complete details will be printed and sent in good time for all our members. Those too far away to come may have friends visiting Vermont, and they are invited to sponsor them.

On July 4th, under the inspiration and with the aid of Watson B. Berry (VHS) of New York City, the town of Hopkinton, N. Y., in the North Country, is planning a sesquicentennial celebration. This town was settled by Vermonters, and their descendants are thick in the town still. VHS plans to join heartily in the celebration, and will make its resources available to the Hopkinton people.

Mr. Berry's address at the Basin Harbor meeting, printed in the October *Quarterly,* aroused keen interest and opened a new phase of Vermont-New York history.

Also, during the summer months we have in mind a day's cruise on the famous old Lake Champlain steamer, Ticonderoga. We will reserve the steamer for our members and friends. We will visit historic lake spots, still "breathless with the romance of stirring days." Two of our members, Ralph N. Hill and Mrs. J. Watson Webb, were the main factors in saving the old steamer from vanishing from the Lake. We warmly applaud them.

Letters are coming in with the welcome news that many members and families and friends are coming to Vermont this summer. Remember that we know Vermont from top to bottom and bottom to top, and we will gladly assist in advising you where to go, where to stay, what to see, even what to expect. We will forward mail, put you in touch with those you hope to see if you do not know where they are.

The July conference will probably run three days this year. Full details will be sent to all our folks. Those too far away to attend any gathering will be kept in mind, and complete stories with pictures will reach them even in exile.

SUMMER GIFTS AND LOANS

Interesting Items from Yesterday

During the past year members and friends of VHS have been generous with gifts and loans which have added decided value to our collections and exhibits. We are late in making proper acknowledgments, but all gifts and loans will be noted in print in News and Notes. The past months have been exceedingly busy ones with our small staff hustling every work day as our services expanded and visitors and letters with questions to be answered grew constantly. We welcome all, both visitors and letters, but we may be slow at times with acknowledgements. Additional lists of donors are now being prepared. Ed.

Benedict, Ada Platt, Burlington, Vt., war records of Lemuel B. Platt; Congden, Herbert Wheaton, Arlington, Vt., pamphlet of history of E. Poultney, Vt.; Gilman, Mrs. A. G., Wells River, Vt., handwoven tablecloth made in Calais about 1805 by Mrs. Bliss (initials not known); Greene, Norman J., Berwyn, Pa., family charts; Halstead, Mrs. Paul B., New Canaan, Conn., typescript carbon copy of the genealogy of the Shaw and Manchester families, mostly from Poultney and Fair Haven; Hemenway, Ruth A., Rochester, N. Y., unbound separates of Abby M. Hemenway's Historical Gazeteeer, a few papers; Hyatt, Delia, Kinston, N. C., photo of Vermont Senate; Jewett, Fred L., Montpelier, Vt., store account book of Hubbard and Jewett; Kamber, Mr. Abraham, Brooklyn, N. Y., Vermont clippings from New York papers; Kendall, Mr. W. C., Sarasota, Florida, four military commissions, signed by Vermont governors, 1823-1827, to Justus and Lucius Edson; Kent, Bennett, Buffalo, N. Y., tintype of Constant Storrs, his wife and daughter, from the estate of Dorman B. E. Kent; National Life Insurance Co. Library, town and city seals of Massachusetts, v. 2; Pearsons, Dr. Earl F., Rutland, Vt., civil war memorial; Plumley, Hon. Charles A., Northfield, Vt., gavel made from wood from the White House; Pommer, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred M., Washington, D. C., clipping on Power's statue: the Greek slave; Proctor, Mr. W. H., Charlestown, N. H., Vermont Journal, 1950, mid-century edition; Royce, Edmund H., Lewis Robinson map of Vermont, 1845; Shepardson, Mrs. F. H., Burlington, Vt., stoneware made in Fairfax, Vt.; Smith, Harriet, estate of, Hobart family Bible, through Miss Gail Lamson, Randolph, Vt.; Smith, Mrs. Sarah Hoag, Grand Isle, Vt., Quaker meeting records of Grand Isle, Vt.; State of Vermont, fragment of the Rock of Corregidor, taken from the mouth of the Malinta Tunnel mounted on Philippine wood, sent to the State by the people of the Philippines; Taggart, Mrs. Robert W., Monterey, Mass., five old Vermont newspapers; Tarpley, Donald G., Landgrove, Vt., old carpenter's tools, probably used for making moldings; Van Buren, Clarence E., Middlebury, Vt., photos of Dewey Day in New York; Wiley, Miss Carrie, formerly of Montpelier, Vt., handmade quilt (variant of the log-cabin pattern) and handwoven tablecloth, both made in Northfield, Vt.; Wood, Pat, Montpelier, Vt., old Walton's registers, Montpelier town reports, etc.

LOCAL SOCIETIES ELECT OFFICERS

Thetford and Brookfield Report

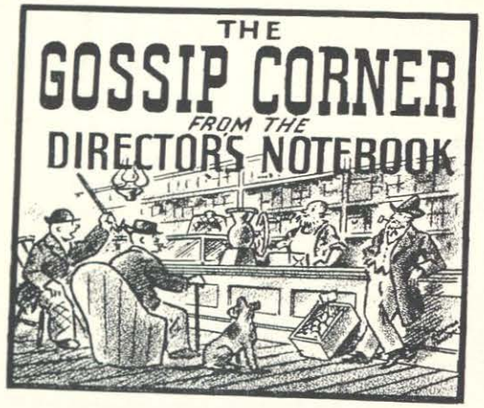
Vermont is essentially a state of villages and towns rather than cities, and local historical societies are a vital factor in maintaining a town's identity and in deepening a sense of "belonging" among its youth and older folks. We welcome reports from these our societies; and one of these days we will be able, we trust, to print the details of the programs given, for such details have a permanent value and interest beyond the town itself.

Officers of the Thetford Historical Society: Mary B. Slade, Pres.; Richard J. Fowle, 1st vice pres.; Ellsworth H. Sargent, 2nd vice pres.; Wm. Worcester, treas.; Christine H. Vaughan, sec.; Charles W. Hughes, curator; Mary B. Slade, cor. sec.; exec. board, the officers and Emma Coombs, Katherine Howard.

Officers of the Brookfield Historical Society: Edson P. Bigelow, pres.; Geo. Williams, vice pres.; Mrs. Ellen Bigelow, sec.; James Angell, treas.; chairman historical committee, Mrs. Anna C. Jones; trustees, Louis L. Bigelow and Dr. Louis Wheatley.

The Woodstock Historical Society, whose godfather is one of our highly valued members, the Hon. Ernest A. Spear, has an annual summer meeting which is well worth attending and the Dana House, built in 1807, is the Society's home — very much worth seeing. We hope to announce in the spring its date of meeting, and the dates of all our local society gatherings, but we do need their aid in securing the requisite information.

In July, at the time of our summer meeting, we intend to have a special conference for the local societies of the state, the idea being that, for the first time in the history of the state, we cannot only become acquainted, but can make arrangements for united work in the interest of the state, also find ways of assisting each other. The state society can become headquarters for local societies.



The story of Justin Morgan, the man and the horse, in our November issue drew many pleasant letters; and, one of these days, we will share them with our readers. Robert L. Nicholson (VHS) of Kansas City sent us a copy of his letter to a feature writer on the *Kansas City Star;* and here's a bit of what Mr. Nicholson had to say about a historic horse: "In the last paragraph of your article you say—'If and when we ever get into the market for a horse, we want one we can talk to!.' The horse you want then, in that case, is a Morgan, a horse that you will be proud to call your own — one that will serve you faithfully and well, a horse that is beautiful, of sweet disposition and intelligence, responding quickly to kindness, docile, sure-footed, fast, full of courage, a horse that is the proud bearer of the Morgan name, a horse that is "American as the Fourth of July.' From your mention of 'we,' I take it you mean your wife and daughter; and if you wish to secure a horse for them, the Morgan is famous for its understanding of its girl rider; the Morgan in its nobility brings out the divinity of its girl rider." . . . There is a tribute for you! Oftentimes, let us be thankful, even a horse wth the attributes as sketched by Mr. Nicholson enters into its destiny . . . Director Earle W. Newton of Old Sturbridge Village, Mass., sends word that in December two or three Morgans will be in the Village this summer and later an exhibit will depict how the Morgan horse originated in Randolph, Vt., and how it has developed since that time . . . "Green Mountain Land," a film made by the Vermont Development Commission, Montpelier, is going over the world; the U. S. State Department has announced that 34 foreign-language versions have been prepared, and plans call for German and Japanese translations. So the Vermont "way of life" will be seen in distant places. The watcher should get an "eyeful" of an independent, liberty-loving lot of hill people who do not like to be "pushed around" by anybody, no matter who they are . . . Every week through the kindness of the *Addison Independent* copies of historical articles by Miss Mary O. Pollard (VHS) reach us and are promptly filed; and in *Collier's,* December 15, is a picture story of her. We are proud of her. . . . I am inclined to worry about our weekly papers, for I know in past years they have found the "going" a bit rough; but I consider them to be absolutely essential to Vermont's wellbeing. In recent years they seem to be more than holding their own; and I hope to give a historical review, some time, of their history . . . Justice Douglas in his *Strange Lands and Friendly People* (Harpers), a book that certainly gives an informative insight into the Oriental mind, writes this sentence: "The Kurds of the border are a taciturn people . . . Their conversation is as cryptic as that of the classic Vermonter." A good Vermont friend of Mr. Brooks, our archaeologist, and VHS, summed up two situations in these sentences. Referring to a certain person he disliked, he said: "Why, that chap would steal the Lord's Supper!" And many a thirsty summer, I shall recall a sentence of his that totals up the uttermost state of dryness: "I'm going to the house and get a drink. My throat's dry as a covered bridge in August!" . . . Most historical research is a labor of love with little luck in it—and we recall one of our really loyal members who in his school days was up to much mischief even as he is now. The motto of his graduating class was "Labor, not luck, brings success." Graduation night the motto read: "Labor not, luck brings success." The damage a comma can do: alas, don't we know!

The perfume of a vanished love still clings to the valentine sent on Feb. 14, 1855, by an unknown admirer in Huntington, Vt., to Lucretia A. Weed of Essex. Concealed by shutters of paper lace and guarded by Cupid poised on a star of blue ribbon are these verses:

Art thou not dear unto this heart?
Ah, search it well and see,
And from this bosom tear the part
That beats not true to thee.
Ah, to this bosom thou art dear,
More dear than words can tell,
And if a fault be cherished there,
'Tis loving thee too well.

The postmark shows that it cost $.24 to send this missive, and the faintly penciled figures on the back of the valentine set its price at $1.25. Orchids to you, Lucretia!

What we would still like to know is how the valentine came into the hands of Mrs. Alice A. Sutton of Barre, Mrs. Sarah A. Johnson of Montpelier and Mrs. Abbie R. Jones of Wynwood, Pa., (who presented it to the Society in 1940) and also whether Lucretia finally said "Yes" to the sender.

In line with the valentine season, a number of VHS friends have been aiding us in our efforts to raise our membership to 2500 before 1953. Architect Lucius R. White (VHS) sends us three new members from Baltimore and writes: "I was interested to note the listing of out-of state members . . . and in noting Maryland . . . you may rest assured I will try to boost this number whenever I can." His grandfather, George Tyler White, came to Baltimore in 1845 from Wardsboro, Vt., and he says that the Fessendens and Rices mentioned in Mary Tyler's journal (Jan. 1951 *Quarterly*) also moved to Baltimore.

A member in Springfield, Mass., has sent us a fine photograph of the old Cadwell house (mentioned in the Lafayette story, N. & N. Sept. 1951), which also shows some of the people who helped welcome the French general to Montpelier. More recently Mrs. L. D. Ware (VHS) of Richmond, Vt., contributes a charming study of the "Old Round Church." If you could see how hard we hunt sometimes for just the right picture, you would know how delighted we are to have such gifts.

Did you know that Vermont now has its own international vacation house, initiated last summer by Dr. Cyrus French Wicker at his home in Charlotte, Vt.? During its first season UN delegates from the Philippines, Iran, New Zealand and Indonesia passed through the doors of the old mansion. To us this seems a wonderful chance for the delegates not only to escape the soggy heat of New York, but also to meet Vermonters and get acquainted with some real Americans.

From Nancy A. J. Thomas of New York City (VHS) we received last week a windfall in the form of back numbers of the *Vermonter,* the *Quarterly, Vermont Life,* and *News and Notes.* The *Quarterlies* helped us fill a lucrative order from an out-of-state library. Due to the popularity of certain articles, we have a need for volumes in the following years: 1860-1869, 1880, 1894, 1901-02, 1905-06, 1911-12, 1913-14, 1917-28, 1931, 1936-40, 1943-45 and 1950. We can't afford to pay for these, but if you want to send us something as important as cash money, any of these back volumes will help bolster our budget.

This last heavy snowfall recalls the consoling question, "If winter comes, can spring be far behind?" and Peggy Sage (VHS) of the Green Mt. Horse Ass'n. writes that her people are running week-end stagecoach trips complete with bugle, guard, footman, prancing steeds and stops at old-time inns throughout the month of June. Sounds very intriguing, doesn't it?

ANNUAL MEETING—MARCH 26
Why not memorize the date?

The Pavilion Hotel, Montpelier, will be the scene of the annual meeting of the Society—and the first was in 1838; and the day will be Wednesday, March 26. We hope to have a fine representation of our members and friends. We have arranged—after looking at heaps of snow as high as our shoulders—for pleasant weather.

The program will have two exceptionally able speakers, and extra features will be added. The Board of Curators will meet at noon; an open meeting of all members will take place in the afternoon at which important issues and plans will be discussed.

All members of the clan who are within flying or riding or walking distance are urged to gather for the visiting and the speaking. The full program later.

OUR STORY OF THE MONTH
A Tablet, A Flag, An Idea

A plaque on the Pavilion Hotel, an historical hotel and an institutional member of VHS, Montpelier, reads as follows: *"The Marquis de Lafayette was entertained here on June 28th, 1825. Erected by the Daughters of the American Revolution."*

A celebration was held in June 1903 with an orator present. A flag covered the plaque, and a black cloth the flag. A drummer ate an early lunch, saw the cloth, and had a bright idea.

That afternoon the crowd assembled, the band played; and the orator pointing to the flag said: "When the American flag is lifted, you will see words to be read by generations unborn." The flag was whisked upward, a large card appeared, and on it was printed:

"Wilson's Whiskey—That's All."

VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY, MONTPELIER, VERMONT.
Leon S. Gay, President; Dr. Arthur W. Peach, Director and Editor,
Mrs. Louise E. Koier, Associate Editor.
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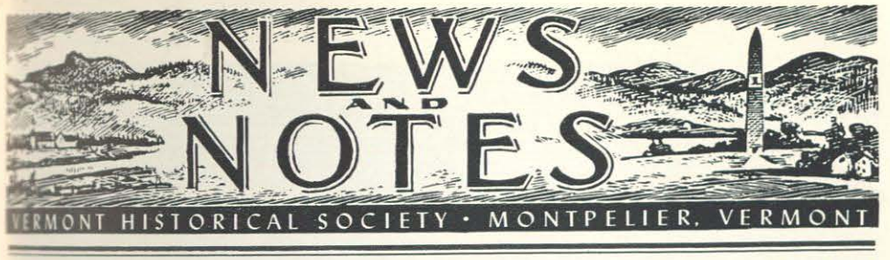

Volume 3 March 1952 Number 7

Celebrated for its wonderful tonic and medicinal properties.
MISSISQUOI
MINERAL WATER.
Bottled only at the spring at Sheldon, Vermont, U.S.A.

Bottle Label

A VERMONT SPRING AND A CURE FOR CANCER

By **Enna Bates**

Secretary, Franklin County Historical Society

One of the somewhat amazing and mystifying phases of Vermont history has to do with the appearance between 1800 and 1880 of a widespread belief in the healing power of certain Vermont springs. Enough evidence exists to establish the fact that the Indians for a long period of time used certain springs for medicinal purposes. We are not aware, as yet, that the pioneers made any extensive use of them, although references to them do appear here and there in early documents. In 1846, Robert Wesselhoeft, identified with the famous "water cure" development in Brattleboro, wrote a pamphlet on "The Green Mountain Spring," and in 1869 another pamphlet was published under the title, "The Middletown Healing Springs and their Marvelous Cures." Highgate Springs, a village in northern Vermont, still has its springs, celebrated in their day; and in